June
15th
1938

Rev. D. Christiansen
Ketchikan
Alaska

Dear Mr. Christiansen:

I am enclosing herewith a page from THE STAR WEEKLY of Toronto, which describes the very romantic missionary enterprise that is being carried on by the Board of Home Missions of the United Church of Canada. It appealed to me very strongly as a type of work that might well be introduced into our program of Presbyterian missions in southeastern Alaska. Of course, we have the Princeton, and I realize that it is used occasionally to carry sick people to the hospital and for other types of work similar to what is described in this article; but it has always seemed to me that the Princeton is kept so busy on other errands that it does not seem possible to use it specifically for a program of human welfare and evangelism such as is visualized in the activity of the United Church Marine Missions on the British Columbia coast. If there is need in that area, it seems to me that there is still more need among the natives in southeastern Alaska.

Since I have been obliged to abandon my hope of using the Princeton primarily for this type of work, much as I would like to see it done, I have had it in mind to give Walter Soboleff an appointment to do this very kind of work when he graduates from Dubuque next spring. The girl he is going to marry is a trained nurse; and if we could appoint them as itinerant missionaries, equip them with a boat not nearly so large or pretentious as the Princeton, I believe they would be able to carry out the plan which I have longed to inaugurate in our work in southeastern Alaska but for which the way has not seemed to be clear since I found that the Princeton either was not available or not adaptable to this type of ministry.

My purpose in sending this article to you is, first of all, to sow the idea of inaugurating work of this kind in the minds of the members of Alaska Presbytery; and, second, to secure the reaction of each of you to the plan which I have in mind, to appoint Walter Soboleff as an itinerant evangelist, equipped with a boat, and with his wife as a nurse to carry on a purely evangelistic work among the natives in the little villages and canneries, whom we do not reach in the program of the Princeton and among whom it is not necessary or advisable to establish churches or to erect church buildings. What we want above all things is to take Christ into the hearts and lives of individual natives, and I shall never feel that our program of Alaska missions is thoroughly efficient until we have a missionary who is reaching the scattered, isolated, and unevangelized portion of the native population who are living in the small villages all alng the southeastern Alaska coast.

I am taking you into my confidence in this matter, and I hope you will write me frankly giving me your reaction to these plans which I have in mind and which I have discussed with Walter Soboleff with his hearty approval, and which have been brought to a focus by the reading of this article concerning the Marine Missions of the United Church, of whose ministry I was not aware until this paper came into my hands.

Faithfully yours,

JMS:BH

KETCHIKAN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
KETCHIKAN, ALASKA

REV. DONALD G. CHRISTIANSEN, MINISTER

June 16, 1938

Dr. John M. Somerndike
156 Fifth Avenue
New York City

Dear Dr. Somerndike:

We were very fortunate to have Rev. Mr. Beck hold services at the church while Mrs. Christiansen and I were at the young people's conference at Sitka. Three delegates went from our church this year, the most we have ever had. Because of the schedule of the Princeton it was necessary for us to be gone from Ketchikan for two Sundays and the people enjoyed the opportunity of hearing Mr. Beck again.

We are planning for a church vacation school again this summer and will begin Monday, June 20th. However, we know many of the families have already gone to camp and if there is not a fair showing of the children next week, we shall postpone the school until early in the fall before school starts and see if the attendance might not be larger at that time. There seems to be quite a few children still in town and we are hoping for a fine school. It is possible that we may have several volunteer their help as teachers this year.

In the past month, several white people have worshiped with us and seem to be interested in our work. They are new comers from the States and have not as yet caught the common attitude among the whites of looking down upon the natives. We are hoping that these people will be a great help in our work here.

Sincerely yours,

Donald G. Christiansen

KETCHIKAN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
KETCHIKAN, ALASKA

REV. DONALD G. CHRISTIANSEN, MINISTER

July 1, 1938

Dr. John M. Somerndike
156 Fifth Avenue
New York City

Dear Dr. Somerndike:

I shall try to answer your letters of May 31st and June 15th regarding labor union difficulties and the possibilities of a more thorough ministry to our out-of-the way people, respectively.

I wrote you several weeks ago that the labor situation probably would change suddenly and often. July the fifth, next Tuesday, the fishing season is to open. One cannery in Ketchikan is being picketed by local and Seattle C.I.O. members. I believe most, if not all the local canneries will operate, but both the C.I.O. and the A.F.of L. claim majority of workers and sole bargaining rights. An election has been called for by the C.I.O. and if this is granted, it will take a week or two at least, and the canning season will be seriously shortened. Our people are all confused. All we can do is sit quietly until next week and see how things develop. The C.I.O. has done much to antagonize the townspeople. C.I.O. leaders have expressed themselves that even the fire trucks will be stopped, and have accused the firemen of turning in a false alarm so that they could drive their trucks through the C.I.O. picket lines. It has hurt their cause to anger the firemen and city officials. It appears to me that the A.F.of L. has the well wishes of the majority of people in town. I believe when the time comes, most of our Indian people who want to work will be able to find jobs.

It was thrilling to read the newspaper account of the Marine Mission work in British Columbia, but that article could well have been written about our mission work in Southeastern Alaska without much revision. You want me to be frank and fair in my letters to you and I will be. First, the Princeton can and should do all that the Marine Missions boat in British Columbia waters is doing. As I understand it, the purpose of the Princeton is to present the Gospel of Christ, and that of course has many implications. If she no longer can do that, she should no longer be called a mission boat. Kasaan, a village 20 miles from Ketchikan, without lay worker, has not more than two visits a year from the Princeton. This account of services at Kasaan can be repeated for other towns. Lay-workers go a whole year without a Communion Service, etc. It is difficult for me to understand how the

Princeton can be tied up for the month of August while Mr. Swanson does commercial fishing, and at the same time we have the Lindsley for the sole purpose of visiting the canneries during this very time. There is not a man in Presbytery except Swanson, who does not see a great work for the Princeton during the trying, busy summer months. People need Christ when the work is hard and the hours long and the body tired. It's not consistent to have the Lindsley in use at the canneries, and the Princeton tied up! You have probably heard from every minister in our presbytery, of the unsafe and filthy condition of the Princeton. I feel a change in skipper on the Princeton is necessary if we are to get maximum spiritual ministry from the boat. Some of the older men who know what the Princeton has done in the past, are broken hearted over the situation existing now. An insight into the attitude of Mr. Swanson toward his work can be given in a little incident that took place in Ketchikan. Mr. Swanson served Ketchikan for a few months immediately preceeding our arrival almost three years ago. Mr. Swanson saw fit to leave two days before our arrival for vacation in the States, instead of getting us started right in our new undertaking. An Indian, volunteering to comment upon Mr. Swanson's two-month ministry here, said, "Mr. Swanson try convert us to Diesel engine." If the Princeton and Lindsley were used for Kingdom business, there would be no need for a third boat.

Walter Soboleff is going to have more Christian influence among his people than any two or three white ministers. He is outstanding in every way. At the Young People's Conference in Sitka last month, boys would come to me, after meeting or hearing Mr. Soboleff talk, and remark about his sincerity and dynamic personality. If Soboleff doesn't develop into the outstanding leader of his people, I doubt if there ever will be one. We must find a place where he will be of the greatest possible influence. When I read your suggestions, they appealed to me immediately. Soboleff on the Princeton, could reach his people as no one else possibly could. However, there are serious drawbacks. He would be called upon to moderate the session meetings for the older lay-workers, and administer the sacraments in their stead. This may or may not be objectionable.

I feel the place for Mr. Soboleff and his charming and capable wife, would be at Juneau. Rev. Mr. Waggoner will retire about the time Mr. Soboleff is ready for a charge. The new building with its enlarged program will need a young couple. The Juneau First Church is made up of Soboleff's own people and many former Sheldon Jackson students are there, or pass through town. Someone has said that the last five years has seen a terrible race hatred spring up in Juneau. No one but Soboleff could cause the white people to forget their imagined superiority, and produce racial harmony. Almost any field needs a Walter Soboleff, but in Juneau he will have the greatest opportunities of helping his people.

I would like to see Mr. and Mrs. Soboleff going into the out-of-the way places, reaching people we cannot, helping former S.J.S. students as no one else could for he is one with them, and in innumerable ways, do things for Christ and His Kingdom the rest of us do not or cannot do. But a far greater work is that of establishing a permanent Christian home, living with his people as one of them day by day, facing their temptations of liquor and immorality and showing the people that it is possible by the help of God, to live victoriously even today. If we ever are to make a strong church in Juneau, now is our opportunity. I in no way minimize the influence the boat work might have, but the very work you mentioned has been delegate to the Princeton, and many times left undone.

If I am not working efficiently, I want my fellow Presbyters to help me. If the skipper of the Princeton felt that way, more could be accomplished, I am sure. Seeing the great possibilities of the Princeton, naturally every man feels very keenly upon this subject you have mentioned. I hope I have not spoken out of turn in reviewing the work of an older Presbyter, as I see it. My hope and prayer is that we too, as the Marine Mission in B.C., can have a boat (why not the Princeton?) on which Christ can travel to people who need Him.

I want to take this opportunity of thanking you personally for your interest in me and the work in Ketchikan. You have always been so willing to help and your advice is sound and God-given. We appreciate your leadership.

Very sincerely,

Donald G. Christiansen

P. S. During the writing of this letter, Mrs. J. Clifford Compton, 1340 W. 6th St., Wilmington, Del. stopped in and brought your greetings. It was good to see her and hear from you. Already many tourists have stopped to see the church, and next week a group of 95 people in the Cal. C. E. tour will have a short service in the church. Last summer many tourists inquired about the Princeton, and were sorry to learn it was tied up while the skipper was fishing. I feel we have a wonderful opportunity during the summer months to meet many travelers and present our work.

D.G.C.

Labor News

Picketing and Negotiations Continue

Union Complains Against "Free Beer" For Banner Carriers

—BULLETIN—

Another development occurred this afternoon when pickets advised a driver of an oil truck taking oil to the office of the cannery that his firm would be placed on an unfair list if the oil was delivered. The driver left the premises without delivering the oil to the Ketchikan Packing company.

While picketing continues at Ketchikan Packing company today by CIO unions, negotiations between a CIO cannery workers' union committee and packers also continue, but the subject of closed shop, apparently the basic question involved in the picketing, is not being discussed.

Meanwhile, Police Chief Daniels reported there has been no indication of violence at the picket line which prevented Filipino inside cannery workers from going to work at the plant yesterday or today. No attempt was made to take the men through the picket line today, and Chief Daniels said he has not deputized any additional policemen.

FREE BEER

A sidelight on the picketing developed today when Mrs. Ethel Moran, business agent for CIO cannery workers here, and Mrs. C. H. Hanson, member of the union's negotiating committee, complained to Chief Daniels that a local beer parlor operator had given free beer to pickets for the purpose of "disrupting them."

Representatives of both the packers and the union reported today first appreciable progress toward a working agreement for the season, which is to open here Tuesday, was accomplished at

Ryan Accuses Reds Of Ship Plot

NEW YORK (AP)—Joseph Ryan, president of the International Longshoremen's association, charged today that the radio room on every ship leaving American ports in 1937 was in control of the communist party.

Senator John McNaboe, chairman of the legislative committee before which Ryan testified, asked the witness if he meant, "It was their intention to cripple the steamship industry."

Ryan replied, "Positively."

Union Council Gets Charter

According to a telegraphic announcement received yesterday from J. R. Bell, comptroller for CIO at Washington, D. C., the Ketchikan and Vicinity Industrial Union council has been granted a charter, its secretary announced.

Unions involved are ILWU warehousemen, ILWU longshoremen, United Fishermen's Union of the Pacific, Pacific Coast Fishermen's union, CIO cannery workers and CIO taxi drivers.

Officers of the council are Fred Omer, president; Claude Benner, vice president; Mrs. Pearl Wyckoff, secretary, and L. L. Bougher, Karle Holts and Leonard Kemps, executive board members.

Salmon Plants in Alaska to Close

KETCHIKAN.—Salmon packers have announced they will close their canneries here until such time as an agreement is reached with the Seiners Union, a Committee for Industrial Organization affiliate, on a minimum price for seine-caught fish. Four plants of the ten here, operated July 12, canning small quantities of fish on hand.

Neither the packers nor union representatives disclosed any plans for negotiations. Picket lines were set up by the union.

The plants which operated July 12 did so after agreeing to buy no more fish nor can any more before an agreement is reached. The packers announced they had tied up their boats and had closed traps to fishing.

Representatives of American Federation of Labor unions attended a union council meeting, meantime, voted to disregard C. I. O. picket lines. A spokesman said they believed the dispute was started by "outside interests."

PICKETING TO BE ORDERLY IN KETCHIKAN

Mayor Ziegler Informs the Police Chief That Working Man as Well as Strikers Are Entitled to Protection. Extra Police to Be Sworn in if Necessary

KETCHIKAN.—"Any Ketchikan man who desires to go to work and has a job, should be allowed to go to that work, and it's the city police's duty to protect him", Mayor Ziegler affirmed at a special meeting of the city council.

Protection of striker and workmen alike was promised by the council, backing Chief of Police Daniels, who has been patroling picket lines at the Tongas Avenue entrance of the Ketchikan Packing Co.

Deputizing of extra police when employes of the cannery plan to work was left to the judgment of Chief Daniels.

"We want law and order at all times, but with strict impartiality on the part of the police", Councilman McCain stated. So far, Chief Daniels said, no violence has been evidenced. However, Mayor Ziegler instructed Daniels to seek a promise of use of no force from the picketing union.

"Anyone breaking an ordinance, or blocking a public thoroughfare, should be stopped by the police", said the mayor. McCain urged that spectators be kept moving and "spread out" from the scene of action. It was agreed that police protection was not necessary all day, but only during the time the men were going to work.

A discussion of ordinances covering picketing was held after it was mentioned that most of the pickets were seiners from Puget Sound. Right to picket was undisputed by all members of the council.

negotiations yesterday. The "progress" reported was on general working conditions as the closed shop and union hiring hall provision, demanded by the union and rejected by the packers, was not considered yesterday. The problem of exclusive bargaining rights may be decided by a consent election.

Another meeting of packers and union negotiators is to be held this afternoon. Tonight at 8 o'clock, members of the CIO cannery workers union are to meet at a special session at the union hall to consider a counter proposal offered by packers a few days ago. The counter proposal, members of the union negotiating committee said, is the first offered since the union several weeks ago presented cannery operators with a proposed working agreement.

KETCHIKAN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
KETCHIKAN, ALASKA

REV. DONALD G. CHRISTIANSEN, MINISTER

July 5, 1938

Dr. John M. Somerndike
156 Fifth Avenue
New York City

Dear Dr. Somerndike:

Every summer approximately fifteen thousand travelers and tourists visit Southeastern Alaska. Every boat stops at Ketchikan for several hours and the people are very anxious to see all they can in that short time. Most tourists are interested in the Indians; where they live, where they go to school, their church, their boats, etc. Mrs. Christiansen and I have a wonderful opportunity to meet hundreds of these travelers and tell them of our work.

We feel the great importance of this phase of our work, both for what it does to us and for what it may do for those who visit us. For this reason, we have not been away from our church one day during the tourist season in the three summers we have been here. In fact, we have had no vacation of any sort since coming to Alaska, two and a half years ago. Some of the men take their month's vacation each year during the summer, regardless of the tourists, but we never have.

I am writing now, asking if Mrs. Christiansen and I could take a vacation in the States this autumn. We feel a definite need to get away from Ketchikan for awhile for physical and spiritual recuperation. We will not be able to leave Ketchikan before the first or middle of October, and as that will be nearing the end of our third year here, we feel that a vacation of perhaps three months would be needed. We are asking for three months, not because we have had no vacations since coming here, but because we will be going as far east as New York, and any shorter vacation would hardly be worthwhile.

I know it will be necessary for me to pay all my own expenses if you grant this vacation to us, as this is not our furlough, but I am wondering, Dr. Somerndike, if you would use your influence to get one or both of us a railroad pass from Seattle to Chicago or New York. I have about 4,000 feet of 16 mm. moving pictures, both black and white and colored which I will take with me if this vacation materializes. I took these pictures and they all center around our Presbyterian work in Southeastern Alaska. The local

photographer told me he never saw colored movies to equal mine in beauty and I am sure most churches would be interested in the pictures of the Indians at work on their curios and at worship. I would be available part of my vacation to present our Alaskan work if you saw fit to use me or my pictures.

I am writing at this time for I believe soon you will be going on vacation and I wanted to have your answer so we can plan one way or the other. I hope you will find it possible to grant us this vacation and to aid us in securing a pass or passes or some reduction in railroad fares. We will anxiously await your reply to this request.

Very sincerely,

Donald G. Christiansen

July
14th
1938

Rev. Donald G. Christiansen,
Ketchikan, Alaska

Dear Mr. Christiansen:

I have your letter of July 5th. I can readily understand your desire for a vacation this Fall. If you could have completed five years of service, before taking this vacation, you would have had four months on full pay and your expenses from Ketchikan to Seattle and return. Since you and Mrs. Christiansen feel the need of a vacation now, we are willing to grant your request for a leave of absence of three months, continuing your salary during that period, but it will be necessary for you to pay your own expenses.

I will endeavor to secure a pass from Seattle to Chicago for you. The railroads do not issue passes to the wives of missionaries.

In view of the fact that we will pay your salary during this three months' vacation, we have a rule which will prohibit us from paying you more than one month's salary when you take your furlough at the end of five years - namely, two years hence. You would have received your full salary at the time of your furlough; but if we pay the full salary now we will not be able to pay it during your furlough period also. You will understand, I am sure, that this does not indicate any unwillingness on our part to be as generous as possible toward you in this matter of a vacation. It is necessary simply because any other arrangement would stir up dissatisfaction and bad feeling among the other missionaries who undoubtedly would hear about it.

I think it would be fine for you to bring your moving pictures with you, and we will be glad to make some arrangements for you to show them in some of our eastern churches. Of course you will want to go to the Woodland Church in Philadelphia, as they will want to see you.

I am concerned, of course, as to what arrangements you would make for the church during your absence, but I presume that this can be arranged with Mr. Beck. If it is necessary to compensate him for his work - which I presume it will be - I am wondering how this will be taken care of. I would like further advice from you regarding these matters.

Faithfully yours,

JMS:BH

KETCHIKAN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
KETCHIKAN, ALASKA

REV. DONALD G. CHRISTIANSEN, MINISTER

July 15, 1938

Dr. John M. Somerndike
156 Fifth Avenue
New York City

Dear Dr. Somerndike:

The outstanding work of the month has been the two-week vacation Bible school held the latter part of June. Three teachers were very faithful in their work this year and occasionally we would have some one else for a day or two. The total attendance for all the sessions was more than double the attendance of last year. About 40 were enrolled and several had a perfect attendance for all the sessions. I am sure if the students enjoyed the sessions as much as the teachers and got as much from the sessions, the influence of our vacation school will be lasting. The effort to put on this vacation school was very much worth while. We were glad to have about five white children enrolled this year. Ours is the only church in Ketchikan which conducts a vacation school and we feel it is a wonderful opportunity to work with the children.

Our Sunday services continue to be well attended and most of our time during the week is spent meeting the tourists and explaining to them our work with the Indians. We have as many as 20 boats a week stop at Ketchikan and as many as two or three hundred tourists a week stop in at the church. We feel it is a wonderful opportunity to witness for Christ and His Church to many people who have never seriously thought about missions and to show to others who are interested the results of their giving and prayers.

The labor situation which has tied up fishing and canning in Ketchikan for the first two weeks of the season has been settled and the canneries are running. We are hoping that our people will be able to earn enough in the next four weeks to overcome any losses they may have suffered because of this strike.

Sincerely yours,

Donald G. Christiansen

July 28th, 1938

Rev. Donald Christiansen
Ketchikan Presbyterian Church
Ketchikan, Alaska

Dear Mr. Christiansen:

I have been absent from the office and have not had an opportunity earlier to answer your letter of July 1st. I want to thank you for the splendid way in which you keep me informed regarding the labor situation in Ketchikan as it affects the natives employed in canneries. I am grateful also for the newspapers which you sent me which I have read with much interest. I note in the "Alaska Weekly" which has just come to my desk that a settlement has been arrived at, and that last Sunday the canneries in Ketchikan resumed operations. I understand that this was caused by the strong policy that was adopted by the City Council, the merchants, and the Mayor of Ketchikan.

I appreciate your reactions to the article I sent you with reference to marine missions conducted by the United Church of Canada. You are perfectly right in saying that the "Princeton" can and ought to do all that the marine missions of the Canadian Church is doing. I am convinced that the reason we are not doing it is because Mr. Swanson does not have the proper attitude toward his work and the proper conception of the missionary possibilities of the "Princeton." He is a Diesel engineer first of all and he is fortunate enough to be employed by a mission board which is very indulgent with him and which permits him to map out his own work pretty much as he pleases. I have never been satisfied with the way in which the "Princeton" is used - or I should say the way in which it has <u>not</u> been used as an aid to our missionary program. When Mr. Glasse was Chairman of the Committee he seemed to be satisfied with the program which Mr. Swanson was following and I have allowed things to run on without offering

any criticism. I feel now that the time has come for us to take some definite action and I am writing to Mr. Pederson, Chairman of the National Missions Committee, today advising him of our plans for the future work of the "Princeton." He will report it to the Presbytery.

I am heartily in sympathy with your suggestion that Walter Soboleff should be the successor to Mr. Waggoner at Juneau. I find, however, that Mr. Pederson feels that Walter could not handle that situation because it is his belief that mixed-bloods will make better progress with a white pastor. While I am not prepared to take issue with this principle, I am quite sure that we can avoid a repetition of the unfortunate situation that has existed between the pastors of the white and native churches in Juneau for many years by having a native minister at Juneau. I am going to recommend that Walter Soboleff be appointed to be Mr. Waggoner's successor. I hope that you will use your influence in the Presbytery to support this proposal.

With kind regards to you and Mrs. Christiansen, and with deep appreciation of your thoughtful and wise counsel, I am

Faithfully yours,

JMS:PDS

Aug.
9th
1938

Rev. Donald Christiansen,
Ketchikan, Alaska

Dear Mr. Christiansen:

I am sorry that it is impossible for us to secure a pass for you from Seattle to Chicago. When you arrive in Seattle, please call in Dr. Thomson's office and you will find a letter there containing a pass from Seattle to St. Paul. That is the best we can do. You will have to pay your fare from St. Paul to Chicago.

Faithfully yours,

JMS:BH

KETCHIKAN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
KETCHIKAN, ALASKA

REV DONALD C. CHRISTIANSEN, MINISTER

August 16, 1938

Dr. John M. Somerndike
156 Fifth Avenue
New York City

Dear Dr. Somerndike:

I had the opportunity this past month of spending a day and a night at Kasaan. As you know, many people are moving away from Kasaan as the cannery is not running this summer. I believe there are only about thirty people there now, the rest having moved to Ketchikan and other towns where the canneries are running. Mr. Allen, the Bureau of Indian Affairs man in Ketchikan,needed to go to Kasaan on business and invited me to go with him. As he was about his business I had the opportunity of visiting the homes of our people and distributing old Sunday School papers, tracts and portions of the gospel. It is very unfortunate that these people do not have more than one or two services during the whole year as they seem to be so very anxious to learn and seem so responsive and interested in spiritual things.

Just a few more days left in the salmon fishing season and finally the seiners seem to be getting good catches. Up until last week fishing had been very poor but we are glad the run started and hope that our men will be able to make a reasonable amount of money this summer. There is a possibility that the season will be extended a few days to allow the seiners to make up for lost time.

We were very glad to have the opportunity to meet many tourists and visitors this past month.

Sincerely yours,

Donald J. Christiansen

KETCHIKAN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
KETCHIKAN, ALASKA

REV. DONALD G. CHRISTIANSEN, MINISTER

August 16, 1938

Dr. John M. Somerndike
156 Fifth Avenue
New York City

Dear Dr. Somerndike:

Thank you for your efforts in securing for me a pass on the railroad from Seattle to St. Paul. This will be a great financial help in our trip east.

Rev. Mr. Beck has consented to take charge of the services during our absence. We surely are fortunate in having Mr. Beck here, and appreciate his willingness to help. It would be very difficult to get away for any length of time without his help. Our church will be able to handle any financial gifts to Mr. Beck for his assistance.

Mrs. Christiansen and I are planning to leave Ketchikan September 17th, on a Canadian vessel, as that is probably the only opportunity we will have to travel on clergy rates from Ketchikan to Seattle. If we do not go on the ship sailing September 17th, we will have to wait a month or two, as there are ominous rumors of another West Coast maritime strike that will tie up all Alaska shipping after September 30th.

We will be back in Ketchikan about the second week in December, in time for the Christmas season.

We appreciate very much this opportunity you are giving us to visit our families and friends in the States and we are looking forward with much pleasure to seeing you and our other friends in the New York office.

Very sincerely,

Don Christiansen

Their address while on vacation per letter to Mr. Chappel: —
2129 North 47th St
Milwaukee, Wisc
% John A Christiansen

KETCHIKAN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
KETCHIKAN, ALASKA

REV. DONALD G. CHRISTIANSEN, MINISTER

August 16, 1938

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156 Fifth Avenue
New York City

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Very sincerely,

Don Christiansen

Their address while on vacation
per letter to Rev. Chappell: —
2129 North 47th St
Milwaukee, Wisc
% John A Christiansen

Oct.
30th
1938

Rev. D. G. Christiansen,
c/o Rev. C. Fred. Fraser,
Milford, N. Y.

Dear Mr. Christiansen:

I am very anxious to see you before you return to Alaska. Is there any way by which I can get in touch with you either in New York or elsewhere? If your itineraries bring you near New York, kindly let me know so that I can arrange to have a good visit with you.

I am hearing excellent reports of your visits to churches.

Faithfully yours,

JMS:BH

St. Paul, Minn.
Dec. 7, 1925

Dr. John W. Swanton
1514 Fifth Avenue
New York City

Dear Dr. Swanton,

(from here on mine using Northern Pacific ink)
people throughout the States and that we will be greatly strengthened because of their prayers for us.

Concerning the work of the Princeton and our leaving Ketchikan for that work, let me say that since our conference with you we have been thinking and praying about this matter. In making a decision we have tried to make our wishes and desires coincide with God's plan for our lives and for the work in Alaska. We realize the opportunities on the Princeton would be more varied than in Ketchikan and that also there is much work still to be done in Ketchikan. Our desire very shortly to have children of our own; and the work which we have

outlook for ourselves in Ketchikan; together with our personal desire to be ashore instead of on the boat; results in the conclusion that for the time being at least we should decline this proposed transfer of ours from Ketchikan to the Princeton. We are very happy in Ketchikan in spite of the difficulties and feel that our work there is not completed.

I know you will understand our position and we want to again express to you our appreciation of the confidence you have shown in us. We will write again from Ketchikan about our future for the holidays.

Very sincerely,

Donald J. Christian

December 14th, 1938

Rev. D. G. Christiansen
Ketchikan, Alaska

Dear Mr. Christiansen:

I was awfully disappointed to receive your letter of December 9th giving me your decision regarding my invitation to you to accept the position as General Missionary in Alaska. I had counted upon your acceptance of this new office which we are creating, as a larger opportunity for service, for which I felt that the Lord had been preparing you. My offer was not made impulsively, but after long and prayerful deliberation and thoughtful consideration. It seems quite clear, since you do not feel the call to this larger work, that it is not the Lord's will that you should accept it, and as in all such cases I heartily agree with your decision. I feel that the reasons you have given for declining are entirely sound and I can sympathize with every one of them. It is comforting to note that you are planning to continue your work at Ketchikan and Saxman.

A seminary student from Andover-Newton Theological School, Newton Center, Massachusetts, would like to spend his summer in Alaska, and I am wondering whether you would like to have him to help you in giving an extra lift to the work at Kasaan and other outstations. I shall appreciate it if you will write me giving me some interesting information concerning Kasaan and other outstations to which he can be assigned to preach and develop a program for a period of three months next summer.

Now there is something I would like you to do for me. Because I have great confidence in your judgment I am asking you to advise me frankly whether you feel that there is anyone among our Alaska missionaries who can qualify for this position as General Missionary. In some ways I feel that Mr. Pederson possesses the qualifications, but my consciousness of his limitations along many lines, which seem to me to be of great importance in the larger development of our program of evangelization in Alaska, caused me to hesitate to offer it to him. I think also that he would find it very difficult to take a traveling job,

because I doubt whether Mrs. Pederson would be willing to permit him to be away from home, leaving her practically the full burden of the care of the children. Because of his crippled condition, and for many other reasons, I do not believe that Mr. Webster is the man that should be offered the position, although he wants it.

It requires a man of vision, and above all a man of enthusiasm, vigorous and cheerful personality, and a man who insists upon getting things done and who is not satisfied with the regular humdrum of routine. The man whom we select must also be a good preacher. Frankly, I cannot find anyone outside of yourself among our men in Alaska Presbytery who measures up to these requirements. If I am wrong I wish you would frankly advise me.

Please consider this letter so strictly confidential that after you have read it it had better be destroyed, and I will treat whatever you write me also in the strictest confidence. I feel today as though it will be necessary for us to look outside of our present force of missionaries in Alaska Presbytery to find the man who will undertake this task and carry it through in a successful way. We must have a man who will put new life and enthusiasm into our work by the demonstration of greater energy and by stimulating every other missionary in the Territory to keep himself up to the full realization of his best possibilities.

With warm regards to you and Mrs. Christiansen, I am

Faithfully yours,

JMS:PDS

KETCHIKAN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
KETCHIKAN, ALASKA

REV. DONALD G. CHRISTIANSEN, MINISTER

January 6, 1939

Dr. John M. Somerndike
156 Fifth Avenue
New York City

Dear Dr. Somerndike:

Your letter of December 14th (attached) received about a week ago but I did not answer immediately because I wanted to ponder about what I should write to you. I am sorry that my decision was a disappointment to you but I am quite happy to know that you have confidence in my judgment and I will try to be as fair as possible in my statements.

I recently had a very sad experience when I recommended Kaiper to a former church of mine in Kansas. I recommended him quite highly to these good people and they accepted him as their pastor after hearing him preach. He accepted their call but stayed on the field only three days during which time he locked himself in the hotel room, threatened to commit suicide and refused to call on anyone. As far as I am concerned, Kaiper will have to prove his worth before he'll get in my good graces.

As for my opinion regarding some one in the Presbytery of Alaska who might qualify for the work of General Missionary, perhaps by a process of elimination I could reach some conclusions.

Kaiper of course, is the first one to be excluded for obvious reasons.

I think I could exclude Bromley and Waggoner without any comment. Their age at least would bar them.

Glass is in our Presbytery of course but he has no sympathy for the Indians and would be the poorest possible choice.

Wheeler is a steady-going methodical fellow who when he tackles anything does it well. However, he is not very aggressive and would have difficulty jacking up some of the rest of us or putting zeal and fire into some slipping community. He seems to be doing a good work at Haines with the Army post but I am quite sure he doesn't have the qualifications you are looking for.

Swogger is a very good friend of mine. He has a mighty difficult field in which to labor. I wouldn't want to

trade places with him because I know some of the irritating problems he is facing. Swogger has good common sense. As a preacher he has very little ability. He just can't get across to the people and fails in holding their attention. He is thorough in his work and his pastoral visitations I know are helpful to his people. I am quite sure he could not qualify for the job as General Missionary.

Webster is one of the most missionary-minded men we have in our Presbytery. He is a good preacher. He has taken upon himself responsibility for bringing the gospel to villages and communities near Sitka. I know he would have the zeal and the ability to do this job right but Webster is one of the most bull-headed fellows I know. He sets his mind in one direction and cannot be turned. Although he would be the man for the native villages and layworkers and although he is informed on all types of leadership training and present-day trends in the church, perhaps better than any other man in the Presbytery, he would not be able to qualify where you are asking of your General Missionary for one who will work with the ordained men. I believe his physical infirmity is causing him quite a bit of pain and know it is very difficult for him to walk any distance at all. He uses a taxi quite a bit in Sitka and would find it quite difficult to get around in the small Indian villages.

I have always thought that Pederson would be the man for the job because of his zeal more than because of his ability. I know Pederson has very little influence with the unchurched whites in Wrangell. I have talked with some business and professional men from Wrangell and they laugh at his tactless zeal. To call him an "old woman" is not meant to be humorous or derogatory but to give a fairly accurate description of him. He is a hard worker and you can rest assured that he would be preaching the gospel in season and out of season. I don't feel however, that he would have much influence in the churches that have any white constituancy and some of the outstanding Indians doubt his preaching ability, although I've never heard him. My first impression of Pederson was that of a fellow who would talk your arm off and although that charastic might be desirable for the President of a Women's Missionary Society, it doesn't go over with he-men, out-door-men and fishermen. Everything considered, I am afraid Pederson should not take the job.

The process of elimination has left us only one and that is Knudsen at Skagway. I must confess that upon our one occasion together, the week of Conference at Sitka last year, Knudsen made a very good impression on me. I heard him preach and it was a fine thought-out sermon, well delivered. He made a tremendous hit with the young people and has been asked to be dean of our 1939 Conference. I have inquired diligently about him of people who pass through Ketchikan from Skagway and find he is just as popular today as when he came a year ago. From my talks with him at the Conference, I found he is keeping in touch with the world generally and with present-day trends in religion and Christian Education particularly. He has not had the opportunity of serving in an Indian church but he has Indians in his church and I know he must be interested in bringing the gospel to them. I don't know how much of a sailor Knudsen is, but a young fellow of his caliber and personality is just the one we weed as General Missionary. He has had several more years experience in the ministry than I have had which would be quite valuable in his contact with the ordained men.

Of all the men in the Presbytery, I feel Knudsen is the only one who could qualify for this position as General Missionary and I think he is well qualified. However my statements regarding him bear less weight when you recall I don't know him as intimately as I do the other men.

I am truly sorry that Mrs. Christiansen and I did not feel led to accept this position and I hope that something I may have said in this letter will aid you in finding the right man for the job.

Regarding the summer work at Kasaan, I might say that last summer the cannery there, which is the largest in Alaska, did not operate. Where usually several hundred people are there during the summer, last summer there were just a handful. At the present time there are about 60 people living in Kasaan and I find that the plans are still indefinite as to whether or not the cannery will operate this summer. If the cannery does operate, there will be a wonderful opportunity for the young man you mentioned to come to Alaska and work with the people there. We have a fine church and manse in Kasaan and the people would appreciate very much his services. If not at Kasaan, I am sure there is some place not very far from here where we could put him to work. It is a little early now to make such plans for the summer but if this young man will plan to come, something will open up a little later where he will be of good service to our people. There is no cannery at Saxman and the town is practically deserted during the summer.

Sincerely,

Donald J. Christiansen

KETCHIKAN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
KETCHIKAN, ALASKA

REV. DONALD C. CHRISTIANSEN, MINISTER

January 14, 1939

Dr. John M. Somerndike
156 Fifth Avenue
New York City

Dear Dr. Somerndike:

It has been several months since our last narrative report to you although during our vacation in the States it was a great pleasure to see you personally and make an oral report on our work here. Mr. Beck did a fine job of carrying on for us while we were gone and all the organizations of the Church seemed to be doing their work more enthusiastically than before we left. A group from the Church were at the dock to greet us when we returned and seemed to be glad that we were back. This of course made us feel very happy. On the night of our return, the women of the Missionary Society made arrangements for a public reception at the Church for Mrs. Christiansen and me at which time we were able to tell something of our trip and to outline some of the goals for the winter's work.

When we left Ketchikan in September for our sojourn in the States, we left one of our young men in the hospital critically ill. Doctors gave him one chance in a hundred to recover from a ruptured appendix. This young Indian and his wife were nominally interested in Christianity. Upon our return we found our prayers had been answered. The young man is up and about and regaining his strength rapidly. Both he and his wife are vitally interested in the Church now and are assuming leadership in the choir and other organizations. In fact this man's wife is the recognized leader of her group and we feel confident that God will use them to bring many of the young people into the Church. During our absence we were very much concerned about this man's condition and were wondering if his sickness had proved fatal as many people expected but to our joy we found him very much alive and interested in the more abundant life which is only found in a close walk with Christ. This man and his relatives are convinced beyond a doubt that his recovery is a direct answer to prayer.

The Christmas Season was a time of many and varied activities around the Church--coffee sales put on by the Missionary Society and Christian Endeavor Society, musical programs by the choir, and the Sunday School program on

Christmas Eve at which time every child and adult in attendance received some gift. Over 240 people were at the Christmas Eve program and about 40 children took part. It was quite a "let down" to have only 9 at the Sunday morning service on Christmas Day. We feel that there is a mistake of emphasis in the program of our Church when the attendance at a children's program and a worship service varies so greatly. Silver night at the theater Sunday evenings continues to attract our people and results in a very small attendance at the services. The evening services during January and February are going to be devoted to a program directed toward a reconsecration of our time and talents to Christ and His Church. A call to join the Rechabite group, a presentation of the privilege of tithing, and the world-wide scope of our Religion will be presented.

Our Week-day Bible School which was not held during our absence is now being conducted every Friday afternoon.

Sincerely yours,

Donald G. Christiansen

Jan.
17th
1939

Rev. Donald G. Christiansen,
Ketchikan, Alaska

Dear Donald:

Thank you very much for your frank letter of January 6th. I feel that you have appraised every one of our men in southern Alaska as accurately as it would be possible for anyone to do. Knowing these men as I do, I can check with every one of your statements. My own mind has been running toward offering the job of general missionary in Alaska to Mr. Knudsen, but the Skagway elders would be so angry with me for doing this that they would want to close up their church entirely.

I have written to Ralph Peterson of Cordova, who is a very fine man, asking him whether he would consider the job. I have not yet heard from him. He has all the qualifications that Knudsen has, and since he has been in Cordova for about three years I think he would be willing to make a change. I will let you know what progress I make in this matter.

I want you to know how much I appreciate your sound common-sense and your clear-headed way of looking at things. It is a constant joy to think about you and Mrs. Christiansen and to feel that at least in Ketchikan our work is in strong hands.

With best wishes always, I am

Faithfully yours,

JMS:BH

KETCHIKAN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Ketchikan, Alaska
Rev. Donald G. Christiansen, Minister

February 10, 1939

Dear Friends:

Here is a long-promised circular letter from Alaska. We arrived home in Ketchikan in time to make last-minute preparations for a busy holiday season. The Canadian boat on which we were traveling, arrived here on December 15th and we were met on the dock by many of our friends who seemed glad to have us back. We had been gone almost three months, during which time Rev. Mr. Beck, our predecessor here in Ketchikan, had charge of the services at the Church. Needless to say, we had a wonderful time in the States, visiting friends, speaking about our work in Alaska and traveling to many points of interest. You might be interested to know that during our three-months vacation in the States, we spoke in 45 churches to approximately 8,000 people. Our services were usually a combination of moving pictures of Alaska and a short talk on our work here. Upon arriving home, we estimated that we had traveled 17,000 miles during our sojourn to the States: 11,000 miles by car, 4,000 by train and 2,000 by ship. We did so much enjoy seeing our families and old friends and having the privilege of making many new acquaintances interested in Alaska. It means so much to us to know that others are thinking of us and praying for us and our work here.

We had a very busy but enjoyable Christmas season in the Church. The choir and Sunday School learned their Christmas music in one week and did much better than we expected. The different organizations each helped the Sunday School to enjoy its Christmas by buying candy, gifts and fruit to supplement that sent by the Woodland Presbyterian Church of Philadelphia, who sent such a fine box of things.

We have a fine choir of 12 members which is adding much to our worship service every Sunday evening. During Christmas, the choir broadcast its Christmas music over the radio to a very appreciative audience. We had many compliments from listeners in different parts of the Territory. We are now working hard on an Easter cantata.

Our Christian Endeavor Society now meets every Friday night instead of Sunday afternoons and we have a party once in awhile which everyone enjoys. Several young couples have recently joined and we are hoping some more will in the near future.

A new partition was recently completed, dividing our large social hall into two smaller rooms, which will be put to good use for Sunday School class rooms, Christian Endeavor Society meetings, choir rehearsals and prayer meetings. The partitions can be easily removed when the large social hall is needed. We wish to thank you people in the States who sent us gifts which made this possible. Our Christian Endeavor Society members are now busy painting and staining these new rooms.

these small rooms, to be put to the best use, made it imperative that we have another piano. Many members and friends of the Church have given gifts of a dollar each towards this cause, so our Session authorized the purchasing of a good used piano, which we can pay for over a period of time. Mrs. Christiansen now has eight people who are taking piano lessons. Two young married ladies, five girls and a boy take one lesson a week and have a half hour of practice every day. This makes a very heavy program for Mrs. Christiansen but we feel it is going to mean much to the Church in the future if we can share responsibilities for the music. The young people pay $1.00 a month for the piano lessons and the privilege of practicing daily and the money is being used to make payments on the newly acquired piano.

During the past two months, there has been a deepening of the spiritual life among our people. One of the most encouraging things that has taken place since our coming to Alaska, has been the establishing of eleven family altars among families of the Church since Christmas. We feel that when father, mother and children meet together for prayer and meditation, the Church is bound to be strengthened and will go forward.

Do you remember our telling you of the Rechabites? Since Christmas, we have had seven new members join this group from our Church family. Our Rechabite Club (see Jeremiah 35: 1-10) takes a public pledge that for the rest of our lives we will refrain from the use of alcoholic beverages in all forms. Knowing the weakness of my people for drink and the terrible temptations that confront them daily, we can realize to some extent the personal victory it is for these people who depend upon Christ for strength to make such a pledge. When the end of the church year rolls around, our record of new members received will not be very impressive but the spiritual awakening among our members that we feel now, although it cannot be recorded in figures, is very real and very necessary if we are to have any witness for Christ in our town. Our people are spending more time in Church; we are learning the importance of whole-hearted allegiance to Christ and the obligation upon us to live for Him; we feel again the power of prayer--prayers of our friends in the States and prayers of our people in their homes.

Perhaps some day you will be able to spend your vacation in Alaska and visit us. Until that time, continue to remember us in prayer that we might be able to have some part in bringing men and God together. We appreciate and thank you for your interest and prayers.

Sincerely yours,

Don Christiansen

KETCHIKAN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
KETCHIKAN, ALASKA

REV. DONALD G. CHRISTIANSEN, MINISTER

February 15, 1939

Dr. John M. Somerndike
156 Fifth Avenue
New York City

Dear Dr. Somerndike:

We are happy to announce that the past month has been one of the most active and profitable months during our ministry in Ketchikan. There is a noticeable deepening of the spiritual life of our people and the attendance at most of the services has been quite good.

At the beginning of this month, our choir sang Christmas music over the local radio station. The half-hour program was very well presented and heard by many of our friends throughout Southeastern Alaska.

A long-felt need has finally been realized with the completion of a light partition separating our large social room into two more useable smaller rooms. This partition is easily removable when the larger room is needed for dinners and social gatherings. The smaller rooms provide a better meeting place for Christian Endeavor, Prayer Meetings and Sunday School classes. This partition was made at a very nominal cost from contributions left at the church by tourists last summer. One of the new rooms thus formed is an ideal place for choir practice and we immediately felt the need of an additional piano to provide music for the meetings held in this room. So now we are in the process of purchasing a good used piano. Every one in the church seems to be behind the project and already almost $40. have been raised for this purpose. This piano has already been delivered to the church and at the end of the month we will make as large a down payment as we can. The total cost of the piano will be $100. and we would like to have this paid for as soon as possible. One source of revenue for our payments on the piano is from lessons given by Mrs. Christiansen. At present we have nine of our people taking piano lessons and practicing daily. They pay $1.00 a month for their lessons and this is turned into the piano fund. Every day from two o'clock in the afternoon until seven in the evening, the piano is in use by these people in their half-hour practice period. Now we have seven boys and girls and two married women taking lessons.

Two definite signs of the deepening of the spiritual life of our people are shown by the following. Eleven family alters have been established among families of the church during the past month. If our people pray at home and teach their children to pray, the future of our church will never be in doubt. Another sign is that seven new members have joined our Rechabite Club. These seven have taken a pledge that they will never touch any alcoholic drink, God helping them. We are continuing to hammer away at this evil and our Rechabite Club is constantly growing.

The work in Saxman has shown very encouraging signs since the Christmas Season. This past month has witnessed a great time out in Saxman with the coming of a group of our friends from the Presbyterian Church of Metlakatla. They came over with a boat load of 37 people and at all three services that Sunday, the church was crowded.

These signs are all very encouraging and we are looking forward to a great blessing at Easter time.

Sincerely yours,

H. J. Christiansen

KETCHIKAN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
KETCHIKAN, ALASKA

REV. DONALD G. CHRISTIANSEN, MINISTER

February 22, 1939

Dr. John M. Somerndike
156 Fifth Avenue
New York City

Dear Dr. Somerndike:

I have not written much lately about our work in Saxman, aside from my monthly statistical reports. A former lay worker, Mr. George Mc Kay, has moved to Saxman during the past year, and has been a big help to me there in our church services and Sunday School. He preaches in the native tongue on Sunday mornings, while I conduct our Ketchikan services, and in the afternoon he helps with our Sunday School. Because of his assistance, I have noticed a finer spirit and better attendance at the services. I appreciate very much Mr. Mc Kay's help.

A unique situation has arisen in Saxman which vitally concerns our church. The U. S. Forest Service has been employing many native men this winter in reclaiming totem poles. Old poles are being taken from deserted villages and repaired and repainted. The plans now are to make Saxman a great tourist center. About fifty poles will be erected in Saxman, mostly along Totem Lane and in Totem Park. Last winter the C.C.C. built several new roads in Saxman, one directly along the side of our church. This will be known as Totem Lane. Plans are to place totems within a few feet of our church.

Perhaps you do not know, but the church building is in a poor state of repair. The roof needs patching, if not replacing. Painting is essential. The foundation should be boarded in. If this building is to be in the very center of a tourist attraction, it surely must be repaired and beautified.

Now this is the purpose of my writing. This church is the property of the Presbyterian Board of National Missions, and cannot be touched by the C.C.C. or the Forest Service. However, the men and the money are ready to make a real church building in Saxman, whenever the signal "go" is given. And that signal can be given only if the church becomes community property. If the Board would turn this property over to the village of Saxman, the Forest Service would go ahead and build a real church for us. I have been told by the authorities that a log structure could and perhaps would be built, in keeping with the rustic surroundings of the Totem Park. The building would face Totem Lane, whereas now it faces a large field, with the street along one side.

If the Board had reason to consider such a transfer of property, it could be done "with reservations". It could be distinctly specified that although the church was to become a Community Church and community property, it must always remain under Presbyterian ecclesiastical control; its ministers must always be of the Presbyterian Church, U. S. A.; and that the Community Church must be organized as is a local Presbyterian Church. These reservations are only suggestions. I know that the Village of Saxman would accept the property and that the Forest Service would build us a real church under these conditions and accepting these reservations.

Personally, I do not think our Board would be justified in spending a lot of money on the Saxman Church, as will be necessary if this offer of the Forest Service is turned down. Our work there does not warrant another large investment.

There will be many totem poles errected this winter and spring in Saxman, and the tourists this summer will find more totems in Saxman than any other town or village in Alaska. The people in Saxman are quite enthusiastic about the prospects of a new church.

I am sending a copy of this letter to Mr. Pederson, Chairman of our Presbytery Committee on National Missions as he, too, may be interested. I am quite anxious to get your reaction to these suggestions.

Sincerely,

Donald G. Christiansen

KETCHIKAN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
KETCHIKAN, ALASKA

REV. DONALD G. CHRISTIANSEN, MINISTER

March 9, 1939

Dr. John M. Somerndike
156 Fifth Avenue
New York City

Dear Dr. Somerndike:

Enclosed please find check for fifty dollars ($50.00) from the Ketchikan Presbyterian Church. This is to be used towards the pastor's salary, and completes our pledge of one hundred dollars for the church year 1938-39. We are happy to have this part in support of our own minister. Besides this one hundred dollars, we have contributed over sixty dollars for benevolences.

You perhaps will be interested to know of a recent action by the Session of our Church. After a two-hour meeting for prayer and discussion of our problems, the Elders passed this motion: "No member of the Ketchikan Presbyterian Church shall be eligible to serve as an Elder of our Church who has not signed the Rechabite pledge." Drinking elders and members have been holding us back. Last night at our annual Congregational meeting, two elders who refused to sign the pledge were replaced by faithful Christians. No one on our Session now touches alcoholic drinks in any form, and are living Christian lives courageously. I believe this action by our Session is the most important forward step taken by our church in years. Also, five members have been received into the church during the past month on confession of their faith in Christ.

We are looking forward with much pleasure to our Presbytery meeting next week.

Sincerely,

Don Christiansen

Mar.
27th
1939

Rev. Donald Christiansen,
Ketchikan, Alaska

Dear Mr. Christiansen:

No doubt you were stunned by the news of Dr. Somerndike's sudden death. His passing has left a deep void in our work and in our hearts, but we are bravely trying to carry on as we know he would want us to do.

I am holding your letter of February 22nd with reference to the transfer of the Saxman church property to the community, for the recommendations of the National Missions Committee of Alaska Presbytery. When these are received, I shall turn the entire matter over to Dr. Morse for action by the Board.

Very sincerely yours,

BH [redacted] UNIT OF ALASKA WORK.

KETCHIKAN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
KETCHIKAN, ALASKA

REV. DONALD G. CHRISTIANSEN, MINISTER

April 15, 1939

Narrative report, March 15, to April 14.

At one of our recent meetings, the Session of our church considered a very important matter. For a long time we were convinced that drinking Elders were holding us back in our witness for Christ. The Rechabite club, formed in our church about two years ago now has about twenty-five members, but still three of our Elders refused to sign the Rechabite pledge, or to make much of an effort to stop drinking. At our Session meeting we passed a motion that no person would be eligible to serve as an elder who was not a Rechabite. This caused two elders to resign from the Session because they said they could not stop drinking. But in their places we have elected two fine out-standing Christian women who will be a big help to us. Now that we as a Session are united in our stand against liquor, we are praying and working to get all the people in our church to take a similar stand.

Easter was a busy and happy day here. Every evening during Holy Week services were held in the church, looking forward to Easter Sunday. About thirty-five attended the Sunrise service at seven o'clock Easter morning, and stayed for a light breakfast prepared by the women of the Missionary Society. The services all through the day were well attended and God blessed us richly. At the morning service, special music was presented by Chief Kiutus Tecumseh, chief of the Wenatchee Indian tribe of the state of Washington. At the evening service the choir presented part of the cantata, "Darkness and Dawn."

We miss our Dr, Somerndike. May God raise up a man to take his place soon.

D. G. Christiansen

KETCHIKAN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
KETCHIKAN, ALASKA
REV. DONALD G. CHRISTIANSEN, MINISTER

May 15, 1939

Narrative Report, month of April 15 to May 14, 1939

It was very fortunate for the people of the Ketchikan Presbyterian Church that the S.S. North Sea arrived in port just in time for the evening service on Sunday, May 7. Dr. Frederick Thorne, of the Board of Natioanl Missions was on board, and kindly consented to preach for us that night. He told in a very interesting and instructive manner of the work of our Board in several parts of the country. This was especially worthwhile, as many of us forget at times the great work of missions our Church is doing. My people were surprised to learn of the magnitude of our work. Dr. Thorne's address gave us all renewed courage, and we determined to go forward, since millions of people in the States were back of us and witnessing with us in our Christian living. We hope that Dr. Thorne will be able to catch the spirit of Alaskan missions, and in some way put that on film, so that others may know of our love and devotion to Christ our Master.

A series of funerals struck our church such as never before has been experienced. In the last two months, we have had nine deaths in our church family. The passing away of so many of our friends and loved ones has caused many of us to think a little more seriously about life, and our prayer is that we may live each day for Christ, and be ready to meet Him when our time comes.

Already some of our people have left town for the fish camps, and their absence is noted especially at the worship services.

D. G. Christiansen

KETCHIKAN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
KETCHIKAN, ALASKA

REV. DONALD G. CHRISTIANSEN, MINISTER

August 16, 1939

Dr. Eugene King
156 Fifth Avenue
New York City

Dear Dr. King:

The narrative report accompanying this month's statistical report will cover the activities of our churches for the past two months.

During June we conducted a 10-day Church Vacation School which was highly successful. The average attendance was far above that of last year and the total enrollment was about 20 more than last year. There were 65 children enrolled with an average attendance of about 46. Four teachers with an occasional helper did their best to make the sessions worth while. A contest covering attendance, memory work, attitude and similar phases proved to be very popular with the children. We were glad to have Rev. Mr. Pederson with us for a day.

About a week after the close of our Vacation School, Dr. Thorne and his party arrived for a two-day stay. Most of his shots were taken out at Saxman where our church is located in the very midst of a Forest Service totem pole project. The setting is quite unique and the shots should be interesting. Elder George McKay, a former lay worker who occasionally interprets for me in Saxman, proved a willing and unusually interesting subject to photograph.

I was very fortunate this year to be able to go down to the meeting of Synod. This is the first meeting I had ever attended and it was very instructive and inspiring to me. The committee meetings; the representatives of the various Boards; the banquets and speeches; the devotional hours were all of the highest type and very uplifting. Rev. Mr. Beck was kind enough to preach for me during my absence on these two Sundays.

Two weeks ago occurred the first death of a church elder since my coming to Alaska. Peter McKay, an elder of our church in Saxman was found dead in his bunk on his boat; cause--acute alcoholism.

The fishing season will be over in a day or two and it has proved to be very unsuccessful for our people. Both the seiners and those people who have stayed at home to work in the canneries have hardly made expenses. I am afraid next winter is going to be very trying and difficult financially.

Every time there is a boat in port, our Church is open to welcome any tourists who might be interested in our work. It is surprising the number of good Presbyterians who make this trip to Alaska and who are vitally interested in missions. However, there are fewer visitors than last year probably due to Depression IV. We have welcomed several Christian tourist groups to Alaska and have held services for them in our Church before sending them to points of interest about town.

Sincerely,

Donald G. Christiansen

September 6, 1939

Copy for Miss Hopp

Rev. Donald G. Christiansen
Ketchikan Presbyterian Church
Ketchikan, Alaska

Ketchikan, Alaska
M. M. #42

Dear Mr. Christiansen:

Your letter of August 31st has been received, together with the picture of the Ketchikan Church, which also shows the present road made of planks.

We have had the treasurer of the Board sign the form which was sent to us by Mr. Pederson and it is enclosed herewith. We trust the City of Ketchikan will find it in proper order.

Sincerely,

C. M. Wonnacott, Treasurer
by:

L. H. Tribus, Assistant
to the Treasurer

EH
Enc.
cc. Rev. Russell F. Pederson
Wrangell, Alaska

KETCHIKAN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
KETCHIKAN, ALASKA

REV. DONALD G. CHRISTIANSEN, MINISTER

September 15, 1939

Dr. Eugene King
156 Fifth Avenue
New York City

Dear Dr. King:

The not too successful fishing season is over and our people are drifting back to town. However quite a few have left their homes again for the fall hunting season so the activities at the Church are rather slow in getting started this fall. The work with the children is under way and our mid-week prayer meeting has been resumed.

Sunday School is quite well attended and we are hoping that it will increase as the autumn season advances. We have four teachers lined up this year who I feel quite certain will stay with us all through the winter. This is more than we had last year and we are making larger plans for our Sunday School work.

Our Week-day Bible School has started meeting Friday afternoons in the Sunday School rooms of the Church. This is the third year our school has been in existence and each year it shows quite an increase in enrollment. There are over 40 enrolled in our Bible School this year. This is more than half of the children who attend the Bureau of Indian Affairs School in Ketchikan. Our Bible School this year is divided into four classes. The class that I am teaching is a new venture on the part of the Church. There are eight or ten children in my class who are studying and preparing themselves for Church membership. We expect some of these young children, perhaps not all, to be ready to join the Church next Easter, and to better understand at that time, the meaning of Church membership. In this class we are studying now the "Catechism for Young Children" put out by our Board of Christian Education. The other classes have their own courses of study for the year.

We lost one of our faithful Church members last week through death--Mrs. Lucy Burton, one of the charter members of our Church. An outstanding Christian, we shall miss her very much in the life of the Church.

Sincerely yours,

Donald G. Christiansen

Sept.
29th
1939

Rev. Mr. Donald G. Christianson,
Ketchikan, Alaska

Dear Mr. Christiansen:

I have your report for the month from August 15th to September 14th, and have checked it very carefully. I am sorry that I do not understand the word "numerous" which occurs in two or three different places in your report. I feel sure that this word has a meaning to you, but it does not help me in my survey of the field. Please, therefore, keep an accurate check on your pastoral calls and list them in your next report. Please do the same with the pages of tracts and periodicals. This will necessitate a little extra trouble on your part, but it will be most helpful to me in reviewing your report.

I also failed to find any description of activities at Saxman. If you have overlooked any activities here, please send me an additional sheet.

I sincerely hope that the work is moving along nicely.

Cordially yours,

EBK:BH

cc to Rev. Mr. Pederson

KETCHIKAN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
KETCHIKAN, ALASKA

REV. DONALD G. CHRISTIANSEN, MINISTER

October 16, 1939

Dr. Everett King
156 Fifth Avenue
New York City

Dear Dr. King:

The two outstanding things to report this month are the beginning of activities in Saxman and our missionary trip on the Princeton. As the weeks go by, the services in Ketchikan become better attended as the men return f rom hunting and fishing. Our week-day Bible School in Ketchikan is getting off to a fine start this year with 42 children enrolled. We are hoping to be able to do some good work with our young people this winter and as soon as the President and other officers of Christian Endeavor return from fall fishing, we shall get our activities under way.

In Saxman, both our Sunday School and our week-day Bible School are now under way. Out there our Bible School is conducted in the school room and with the assistance of Mrs. Christiansen and Miss Giblin, we are able to conduct a profitable hour. Mr. George McKay, the man who interprets for me at our services in Saxman, is also Superintendent of our Sunday School there. There are fifteen children enrolled in Sunday School. The morning worship service is held in Saxman at the s ame hour that we meet in Ketchikan so lay-worker George McKay conducts the service in his native tongue. However at the three o'clock service, he interprets for me when I bring the message.

On September 21, 22 and 23rd, I served as missionary on the Princeton visiting Belle Island health resort and Kasaan. Mrs. Christiansen accompanied me to take care of the music and two young married women from our church accompanied us to bring several vocal numbers. We had a most enjoyable and profitable time and I think our visit was appreciated by the people. We were ten hours behind schedule in leaving Ketchikan because of a heavy fog which had settled in the channel. It was quite late in the evening when we arrived at Belle Island so it was impossible for us to get the people together for a service. However, I did go into the bunk house of the C.C.C. boys and have a short talk with them before they retired. Even tho' it was late, we visited many of the people who were at the health r esort to enjoy the famous sulphur spring baths. We planned to have a service early the next morning before starting out for Kasaan and talked to the proprietress about a place which might be made available for our service. However, in the morning we discovered that the C.C.C.

boys were repairing the dock to the health resort and it was several hours before we could get ashore. Circumstances made it impossible for us to have a service at Belle Island but according to my report you can see we distributed much literature and were able to meet and visit with many of the people.

We left Belle Island at noon and arrived in Kasaan about six P.M. I immediately rounded up as many of the elders as I could, told them of our arrival and made arrangements for an evening service. It had been several months since the Princeton last stopped at Kasaan and the people were anxious for a service. We had a fine turn out of 30 that evening and a very profitable testimonial service followed the sermon. The next morning we had Sunday School with the children. Only eight children were present but that was 100% of the children of school age who were in town at the time. You will see from my report that we distributed quite a few tracts and other literature at Kasaan also. We left Kasaan about noon on Saturday and arrived in Ketchikan at five in the evening, in plenty of time to get ready for a busy Sunday.

Sincerely yours,

Donald G. Christiansen

KETCHIKAN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
KETCHIKAN, ALASKA

REV. DONALD G. CHRISTIANSEN, MINISTER

October 30, 1939

Dr. Everett King
156 Fifth Avenue
New York City

Dear Dr. King:

A letter dated October 23rd from Dr. James Thomson of Seattle was received by me today. Our winter schedule for mail boats is now in effect, and we receive mail from the States only once a week. Dr. Thomson mentioned in his letter that he had had a conference with you and asked me to write you regarding my proposed transfer to the States.

On September 12th I received a telegram from Dr. Thomson offering me the position of Sunday School Missionary for Eastern Oregon. His reason for having me in mind when this position opened was the fact that I had expressed to him my desire to return to the States. I would like briefly to inform you of my reasons.

Since coming to Alaska approximately four years ago, I have had several sinus attacks; one rather prolonged and serious. The climate in which we are working is very conducive to colds and sinus trouble. Our annual rainfall is 150 inches; last year 156 inches of rain fell in Ketchikan. Our church is built on piling over the water, and when the tide is high we have about 12 feet of water under the entire building. We feel the need of sunshine and a drier climate. There were only eight days of clear weather in Ketchikan since the beginning of summer.

Another reason for wanting to leave our present location is that some day, before we get much older, we would like to have additions to our family. It would be quite impossible to have children in the manse at Ketchikan. Our rooms are directly above the church auditorium and one cannot walk, however lightly, in the rooms of the manse without disturbing the worship service on the first floor. Even well-behaved children might prove to be a disconcerting influence during times of worship. It is rather difficult to keep our rooms at an even temperature and the floors especially are cold most of the time. This is unhealthy for babies or infants

playing on the floor. The church and manse are both heated by the same steam system, which is manual; there being nothing automatic about it whatsoever. This fact, together with the water underneath the church and that which comes down from the heavens, makes it rather difficult to keep the temperature of the rooms uniform. The minister who serves this church must have grown children or none at all.

I would like to quote a paragraph from my letter of Sept. 26th to Dr. Thomson.

> "Since receiving your telegram of Sept. 12th, Betty and I have been doing much thinking and praying over the matter as we want to be led of the Lord in all our doings. I think we would like very much to be missionaries to people in out of the way places who do not have opportunities to hear the word of God. Here in Ketchikan we have ten churches affording ample opportunities for any one to learn the way of salvation who has the desire to do so. I can truthfully say that the Presbyterian Church is the strongest church working with the Indians and there are no local problems that are forcing us to move. We feel that after almost four years, a change of leadership might kindle enthusiasm on the part of some who are drifting away. New and different problems for us to face will be helpful to us, too."

We realize quite well the fact that you are facing many problems and are called upon to make many decisions relative to the work of the Presbyterian Church in Alaska. We know that you are making a sincere effort to grasp the situation in each community, and that the Kingdom of God in Alaska will go forward under your leadership. I want to thank you for giving me this opportunity to clarify myself on the subject of a possible transfer to the States. I am sending a copy of this letter to Dr. Thomson.

Sincerely yours,

Donald G. Christiansen

Nov.
6th
1939

Rev. Mr. Donald G. Christiansen,
Ketchikan, Alaska

Dear Mr. Christiansen:

Thank you for your interesting letter of October 16th. I have just returned from an extensive field trip that took me out to Portland. While there some of your friends expressed a very fine appreciation of you and for the work that you are doing. I thought these flowers in the winter time might smell as sweetly as the roses in May.

Cordially yours,

EBK:BH

Nov.
8th
1939

Rev. Mr. Donald G. Christiansen,
Ketchikan, Alaska

Dear Mr. Christiansen:

Thank you for sending me the information that was contained in your letter of October 30th. You have stated the case concisely and clearly. I appreciate your confidence. Although we regret to see you move out of Alaska, under the circumstances I cannot and will not ask you to stay.

However, I am going to ask you to remain until I have had an opportunity to visit the field. I expect to be in Alaska this next April.

Cordially yours,

EBK:BH

NATIONAL MISSIONS
REV. RUSSELL F. PEDERSON, CH.
WRANGELL, ALASKA

UNITED PROMOTIONS
REV. RUSSELL F. PEDERSON, CH.
WRANGELL, ALASKA

FOREIGN MISSIONS
REV. DONALD G. CHRISTIANSEN, CH.
KETCHIKAN, ALASKA

PRESBYTERY
OF ALASKA

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION
MR. W. LESLIE YAW, CH.
SITKA, ALASKA

PENSIONS
REV. DAVID WAGGONER, CH.
JUNEAU, ALASKA

STATED CLERK
REV DAVID WAGGONER,
BOX 1421, JUNEAU, ALASKA

November 15, 1939

Dr. Everett King
156 Fifth Avenue
New York City

Dear Dr. King:

Our Fall program is now in full swing, with many activities centered around our churches in Saxman and Ketchikan. In spite of the fact that many men are away from town hunting, the services are quite well attended. Our Week-day Bible schools are especially encouraging. The pastor's class with young people which is studying church membership and the meaning of allegiance to Christ, is interesting and helpful.

Our choir has finally been rounded up and will provide special Thanksgiving music. We are planning a musical evening near Christmas with a new cantata just purchased. Perhaps we will be given time on the local radio station, KGBU, to broadcast our Christmas music, as we were able to do last year.

We continue to regard liquor as a millstone about the necks of some of our people. Three of our people who have left liquor alone for two years, have this past month started to drink again. One is a young man, an elder of the church. He will have to resign unless he changes his ways. How much we need to pray these days for strength!

Our prayer is that in some way we may be able to reach the young people. Our Christian Endeavor Society has not met for almost a year. Bank night at the local movie house and drinking are reasons for this.

Sincerely,

Donald G. Christiansen

NATIONAL MISSIONS
REV. RUSSELL F. PEDERSON, CH.
WRANGELL, ALASKA

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PRESBYTERY
OF ALASKA

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SITKA, ALASKA

PENSIONS
REV. DAVID WAGGONER, CH.
JUNEAU, ALASKA

STATED CLERK
REV. DAVID WAGGONER,
BOX 1421, JUNEAU, ALASKA

November 15, 1939

Dr. Everett B. King
156 Fifth Avenue
New York City

Dear Dr. King:

I am writing you concerning our church property in Saxman. If Dr. Somerndike's files are available to you, a letter from me to him dated Feb. 22, 1939 will present the situation as it was at that time. The request of the U.S. Forest Service and my recommendation at that time was that our church property in Saxman be turned over to the Village of Saxman, becoming a Community Church. The Forest Service would reconstruct a place of worship in a nearby location, thereby enabling them to complete their totem pole project. My recommendation was that the ecclesiastical control remain with the Presbytery of Alaska.

A letter from the Rev. Mr. Russell Pederson of Wrangell to Miss Blanche Hopp dated July 14, 1939 contains additional information on this matter.

In a recent meeting of the Board of National Missions, the following action was taken:

> "The transfer of the Presbyterian Church building at Saxman to the Village of Saxman was approved with the understanding that the Forest Service would remodel the property and make it into a substantial and useful building, and also that the church even though becoming a community enterprise would remain under the ecclesiastical control of the Presbytery of Alaska."

I am enclosing pictures of the immediate surroundings of our church in Saxman, covering a period of two years, to enable you to visualize more clearly the situation. You can see from picture #2 that our church is in the very center of the totem pole project and it would be to the advantage of the Forest Service to have it removed.

As things have developed to date, the U. S. Forest Service is now willing to raze the building and store the lumber until such time as another place of worship is constructed. They would like to have us turn the church property over to the Trustees of the Village of Saxman and in turn have the Trustees petition the Forest Service for this reconstructed chapel.

The Forest Service contends now that no special privileges can be granted to the Presbytery of Alaska nor can we hold any ecclesiastical control whatsoever over the proposed Community Church. The Trustees of the Village of Saxman, being a group of four or five Indian men, may or may not be able to accomplish much with the U. S. Forest Service. You can see this is a great variation from their position as stated in my letter to Dr. Somerndike.

The building is in a poor state of repair and from my reports you perhaps have gathered that our work in Saxman does not warrant the spending of several hundreds of dollars to recondition the church. However, in two or three years there will be a large Government hospital for the Indians constructed in Saxman behind this totem pole project and quite near the present location of the church. A few thousand tourists every summer are expected to visit Saxman. The present building is a disgrace to our great Presbyterian Church, U.S.A. and makes a poor impression on visitors.

I had a conference with the Ranger in charge of the local Forest Service office a day or two ago and he is quite anxious that something be done this winter with the church building. I want to lay this entire matter before you and hope my picture of the situation is not too muddled. The Forest Service is as anxious as ever to have the building removed but they are not willing to do as much in return as originally suggested.

We are asking for nothing from the Forest Service. It is their contention and not ours, that our building interferes with the completion of their totem pole project. The action they desire to have the Board of National Missions take now is to turn the property over to the village of Saxman without giving us any assurances that there ever would be a community church completed. I promised to inform you concerning this unreasonable request.

Sincerely yours,

Donald G. Christianson

KETCHIKAN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
KETCHIKAN, ALASKA

REV. DONALD C. CHRISTIANSEN, MINISTER

December 15, 1939

Dr. Everett King
156 Fifth Avenue
New York City

Dear Dr. King:

We feel that several important advancements have been made this month in Ketchikan. Our Christian Endeavor Society is now meeting weekly at three o'clock Sunday afternoon and we are enjoying fine spiritual, helpful meetings. I am able to be present only part of the time as it is necessary for me to be in Saxman for our service there. We are hoping to give the young men of Christian Endeavor the job of decorating the church for the Christmas programs which will, we hope, link them more closely to the church. Along with Christian Endeavor, we have been conducting the past month, a recreation night. Every Thursday evening, from seven until ten, people of all ages are invited to the church to play games. Ping pong seems to be the favorite with darts and Chinese checkers running a close second. These nights have proved quite popular with the young people and we plan to continue them throughout the winter.

The Presbyterian Church of Ketchikan joined with three other churches in a union Thanksgiving service held at the Episcopal Church. This union service is becoming an annual affair and we are glad for this opportunity of worshiping together with the people of other denominations. I was glad to see so many of our own members at this service.

We received quite a scare on Nov. 22nd when in lighting the oil burner to heat the rooms for our weekly prayer meeting, the motor and fan and the air pipe accidently caught on fire. It wasn't much of a blaze but it necessitated calling the fire department. The fire was put out quickly with no damage which gave us extra cause for thanksgiving that day.

I am happy to be able to send to you a check for $25.00 from the Ketchikan Presbyterian Church. We are endeavoring to pay $100.00 a year towards the pastor's salary and this is our first payment. We hope to be able to send the rest before the end of the fiscal year.

Sincerely yours,

D. C. Christiansen

KETCHIKAN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
KETCHIKAN, ALASKA

REV. DONALD G. CHRISTIANSEN, MINISTER

December 27, 1939

Dr. Everett B. King
156 Fifth Avenue
New York City

Dear Dr. King:

The members of the Presbytery of Alaska have been urged to deluge the New York office with letters requesting the replacement of the wrecked M S Princeton. It was implied that if we did not write to you concerning this matter, we would be opposed to having another missionary ship. However, it appears to me that the mere cataloguing of missionary prospects in the immediate vicinity of Ketchikan would aid but little in the solution of our problems concerning another ship.

The question of ministers and the church members throughout Southeastern Alaska seems to be not, "Will the Princeton be replaced?" but "When will the Princeton be replaced?" Every one seems to feel the necessity for a mission vessel, especially the Christian leaders.

Permit me to say in all frankness, I do not see the necessity for a mission boat manned and operated as was the Princeton. It was sheer folly to expect one man to assume responsibility of skipper and Sunday School Missionary for Southeastern Alaska single handed but for the aid of a deckhand. The U. S. Game Commission operating a much smaller boat out of Ketchikan has a crew of three full-time men keeping a schedule far less exacting than that of the old Princeton. Unless a mission ship can do its work efficiently and safely, it becomes a hinderance instead of a help in building up the Kingdom of God. We are not asking for a private yacht with a crew decorated in gold braids, but we are asking for something worthy of the name of our great Cause.

As Rev. Mr. Bingle passed through Ketchikan on his way home from a conference with you, he mentioned the fact that you and other representatives of the Home Missions Council would be in Alaska in the spring. In Southeastern Alaska, we have the following denominations represented: Presbyterian, Methodist, Protestant Episcopal, English Lutheran, Norwegian Lutheran, Roman Catholic, Christian Science, Seventh Day Adventist, Penticostal, Russian Orthodox, Salvation Army and Congregational. How many of these are represented in the Home Missions Council I do not know. The wild idea suggested itself to me that the

Princeton be replaced with a Christian mission boat operated and supported by the Home Missions Council. The Presbyterian Church is biting off more than it can chew when it endeavors to man all of its organized churches already established in Southeastern Alaska and assume responsibility for reaching out into all the coves and inlets to evangelize the homesteaders and trappers. Our Church has by far the greatest work in Southeastern Alaska and we have no right to allow churches that are organized to go without leaders year after year, having but one or two services annually, while we are contemplating new ventures and undertakings. Let us man all our churches that are now established and leave the mission ship and the spreading of the gospel to out-of-the-way places as a cooperative enterprise.

A mission ship in which five or six denominations are interested could be larger, better manned, more efficiently operated and be held to a more rigid schedule than was the old Princeton. If this proposed ship were ever needed for the work of any denomination to the exclusion of all others, it could be chartered for such a purpose. It would be available for Presbytery meetings, to transport the students of Sheldon Jackson School and Haines House, under charter.

The possibilities for Cooperative Christian work that present themselves when we consider this subject of a mission boat, appeal to me.

Sincerely yours,

Donald G. Christiansen

KETCHIKAN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
KETCHIKAN, ALASKA

REV. DONALD G. CHRISTIANSEN, MINISTER

January 5, 1940

Dr. Everett B. King
156 Fifth Avenue
New York City

Dear Dr. King:

Enclosed in this letter you will find a paper I received from the local office of the U. S. Forest Service, drawn up by the District Ranger as a suggestion as to what could be done concerning our church in Saxman. It offers little information not contained in my last letter to you on this subject. I promised to send this paper on to you but gave little encouragement that the Board of National Missions would be at all interested until some definite assurance is given that there will be a chapel erected for our use in Saxman. Concerning paragraphs in which the Village of Saxman is concerned, the trustees of this village have taken no action nor expressed a willingness to assume any responsibility in this matter.

You see from this paper that the Forest Service assumes no responsibility and if the building cannot be successfully moved, there is no assurance that we will have a place for worship in Saxman.

Sincerely yours,

Donald G. Christiansen

Phone Black 256 P. O. Box 413

Ketchikan Presbyterian Church

Rev. Donald G. Christiansen, Minister

KETCHIKAN, ALASKA

January 16, 1940

Dr. Everett B. King
156 Fifth Avenue
New York City

Dear Dr. King:

I am very happy to be able to send you this month, two checks for $25. each. One is made out to the Board of National Missions and is another payment by our Church on the pastor's salary. The other is made out to the Central Receiving Agency and is to be applied toward our benevolent quota.

Along with this letter and my monthly statistical report, I am sending a copy of a circular letter recently mailed to friends in the States which will tell of our activities during the past month.

Sincerely yours,

Donald G. Christiansen

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

KETCHIKAN, ALASKA

Donald G. Christiansen, Pastor

January 16, 1940

Dear Friends:

Ketchikan Weather Report

181 inches (16 feet) of rain during 1939!
36 clear days during 1939 (22 hours of sunshine during November!)
No freezing weather thus far for the winter of 1939-40!
No snow yet this winter.
Lowest temperature for the winter thus far was 35 degrees above zero,

From this land of "eternal ice and snow" we send greetings. We appreciate the thoughtfulness of our many friends who remembered us with Christmas cards. It is a great source of strength and encouragement to know that you are remembering us and our work.

We thought you might be interested in hearing about the recent activities of the church. The whole Christmas season has been a very happy one. It started with our Junior Choir singing Christmas music over the local radio station, KGBU, Thursday evening, Dec. 21st. On Friday afternoon we had a party for the children of our Saxman Bible and Sunday Schools. There were 50 children present and we gave them each a gift. They recited pieces and sang Christmas songs and certainly were a happy group of children. That evening our Senior Choir, 18 in number, broadcast parts from their Christmas cantata over the radio and had many compliments on their program.

Saturday night was the Sunday School children's night. Their program went off very nicely and was attended by over 300. Every one present received candy and an apple, and all the children received gifts as well. The ladies of the Woodland Presbyterian Church of Philadelphia, Dr. J. Ramsay Swain, Minister, sent us two large boxes of beautiful anduseful hand made gifts, enough for the children of our Saxman and Ketchikan Sunday Schools. Our children are as grateful as we are for the part this Church had in making their Christmas such a happy one. Our own Women's Missionary Society made it possible for the children to receive fruit and candy

The next morning the Junior Choir sang Christmas songs in the Sunday worship service and in the evening the Senior Choir gave its Christmas cantata "That Song of Old" and did it very beautifully. We had on the new white robes (which we made in a week) and the choir marched in humming "Silent Night", while I played it softly and one of the girls sang the words behind the scene. The Church was decorated very artistically with greens and lighted by candles, the Christmas tree and the lighted cross. After that service some of us went up to the hospital and sang carols.

On Wednesday, Dec. 27th, our choir went to Metlakatla to present the cantata there. The wind was blowing hard and it was raining, but surprising to us all; the trip wasn't very rough. Metlakatla is about 15 miles away and it took us about an hour and a half each way by boat. Friday, Dec. 29th, the Metlakatla choir came here and sang its cantata in our church. We served them refreshments, as they did us, before returning home.

Our Christian Endeavor Society holds its meetings at 3 p.m. every Sunday and on Dec. 31st had one of the most spiritual meetings of the year. This Society has been having some fine times together and last week new officers were elected. We pray the Society will go forward both in spirit and number during the new year.

A Junior Christian Endeavor Society has been formed recently which meets on Saturday nights. These are the older children of our Sunday and Week-day Bible Schools. About 15 have shown interest and officers of this Society will be elected in the near future.

Our Sunday evening service on Dec. 31st was in the form of a Watch night service and started at 9:30. The choir sang four times durir the evening; new members were received; talks and prayers by the people in the audience (both in English and their native tongues) and the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper was observed as the new year arrived. It was a very inspiring service. The girls of the Christian Endeavor came about 8 p.m. and we made sandwiches which we served with cocoa and cookies after the service. Several of our people told us it was the happiest New Year's Eve they had ever spent and we know it was true, as some of them had been drunk at the same time last year.

New Year's Day being our 4th wedding anniversary, we invited 14 young people of the church for dinner, some Indian and some white. We brought up a long table from the church and put it end to end with our dining room table extending into the living room and it just seated seven on each side and one on each end nicely. We all had such a good time playing games during the evening.

We have just completed the Universal Week of Prayer, celebrated in Ketchikan by union services. Five churches joined together under the auspices of the Ministerial Association and had a service at each church. These prayer meetings were well attended and proved a great blessing to all. We hope the results will not be transitory.

In closing, we have some good news for you. When we came here four years ago, there were six saloons within 200 feet of our church. The Territory of Alaska has recently raised the tax a saloon must pay and with the coming of the new year, four of these saloons went out. And they will stay out because after they had opened, a law was passed that no new license could be issued to sell liquor within 200 feet of a school or church.

The past year has been one of gratifying results in many ways and has been one of the happiest since coming to Alaska. As we are about to enter our fifth year in Alaska, we remember gratefully your interest and prayers. Continue to pray for us and our work.

Sincerely yours,

Don and Betty Christiansen

Jan.
17th
1940

Rev. Mr. Donald G. Christiansen,
Ketchikan, Alaska

Dear Mr. Christiansen:

I thank you for your very fine letter of December 27th, in which you urge the replacement of the Princeton. I am glad that you recognize that the replacement of the Princeton is not the only problem that we are facing in Alaska. You may be sure that we are moving cautiously and carefully and want to and hope to eventually do the thing that will be for the best interests of the work in Alaska. I appreciate your suggestions, and at any time you have any like to give me I shall appreciate them.

The Memorandum of Agreement which you enclosed concerning the Saxman church does not have any more light or encouragement in it than the previous correspondence. In other words, we cannot sign such an agreement.

Cordially yours,

EBK:BH

Jan.
29th
1940

Rev. Mr. Donald G. Christiansen,
Ketchikan, Alaska

Dear Mr. Christiansen:

I have your letter of January 16th, together with the enclosures. The checks have been turned into the treasury. Your narrative report is most interesting and indicates the very full program you are carrying at Ketchikan.

I am looking forward to seeing you in March.

Cordially yours,

DH

1216 So. Madison
Tacoma, Wash.
Jan. 16, 1941

Dr. Everett B. King
156 Fifth Avenue
New York City

Dear Dr. King:

I returned to Tacoma several days ago, having been away a little over four weeks. The trip to Ketchikan was very pleasant. We arrived in Ketchikan in time to attend the evening service, at which time Mr. Yaw brought a fine message. There was a large attendance and everyone seemed pleased I had returned.

Eleanor Williams, a native girl who graduated from high school last June, has been playing the piano at our Church. However, she is a member of the Episcopal Church and on special occasions she plays for them. She had left our Church to help them with Christmas music a week or two before I arrived.

Mr. Beck announced that I had brought special Christmas music with me and requested that all those who would sing in the choir remain after the service for the first practice. About twenty stayed and we had a fine rehearsal that evening, and every evening during the following week. The choir members were very faithful in attending the rehearsals and presented a fine cantata the next Sunday evening, to the surprise of the rest of the congregation. The ladies in their clean white choir robes and the men in dark suits, made a beautiful picture in a setting of Christmas trees and cedar decorations.

Speaking of decorations, many of us worked late Saturday evening trimming the trees and placing silhouetts of the shepherds and wise men in the windows, pictures of which are enclosed. The city had a contest among organizations for the best decorations and our Church won the first prize of $10. During that week a pipe burst and Mr. Beck was glad to have this extra money for the plumbing bill!

While in Ketchikan I lived most of the time with the Allens, who teach in the Government School. As the lady who was to play the piano for their Christmas play was taken ill, I was glad to be there to take her place. We practiced with these children every morning that first week and they presented their play the Thursday evening before Christmas in our Church, as usual.

Mrs. Robert Peihl, a white lady who has been Superintendent of the Sunday School since we left, had given out quite a few recitations to the children but wasn't very hopeful about the Christmas program without any music. She was very much pleased to help me every afternoon after school in teaching the Sunday School children the Christmas music I had taken up with me. We had our best rehearsal the Sunday before Christmas when all the children were there. The Sunday School program was held on Christmas eve as has been the custom for many years in the Church. After the children recite and sing, Santa comes. Not only the children receive gifts (sent again this year by the Woodland Presbyterian Church of Philadelphia), but everyone present receives candy and an apple, as well as the gifts which have been placed under the tree during the day by many families and friends.

Following this program Christmas eve, the choir presented its cantata over the local radio station KGBU and received many compliments from friends in outlying districts during the following weeks.

The people of the Church appreciate the kindness of Dr. Long and Immanuel Church of Tacoma for sending the music, both for the choir and the Sunday School, as well as 30 lbs. of candy for the Sunday School.

While in Ketchikan I received a letter from the Council of Women for Home Missions and also their booklet entitled "Women in a Changing World" containing a series of radio talks. Thinking I was still living in Ketchikan, they asked me to talk to the local radio station manager about receiving time to give these talks over the air. Mrs. James Britton, business manager of station KGBU was very kind and gave me 15 minutes eight afternoons at which time I read these talks. I received many nice comments on them and every one who heard them thought they were very worth while.

As my friends took such good care of me while in Ketchikan, I did not have to ask the Church to meet any expenses.

Mr. Beck, as you know, is very anxious to be relieved of all responsibility connected with the Church. He, as well as the people of the Church, have become quite discouraged waiting for the new minister and his wife. When I told them you told me of a couple who will go to Ketchikan in March, they wanted to know all about them. Of course I knew nothing except that they were young and that the wife could play the piano but this did not satisfy them. They are very anxious to hear from you, more about this couple.

From many people I heard of the dissatisfaction of the work of the Arthurs this summer. They were liked personally but did not seem at all interested in the children, taking no part at all in the Sunday School. Both Mr. and Mrs. Arthur smoked in the presence of natives and spent much of their time playing bridge. This is not gossip, but I felt you would want to know this. I went through the manse several times and was very sorry to find that the Arthurs had left it in very poor condition. Some of the things we left were either missing or broken.

I spent a lot of my time visiting the shutins and those who had been losing interest in the Church. I am sure as soon as the new minister arrives they will rally around him and the Church again. At several services the auditorium was crowded and it gave me such a good feeling to know that the people still feel a need for the Church.

The music will be well taken care of by Eleanor Williams from now until the middle of March at which time she will be needed at her own Church. The choir promised to continue their weekly practices and are now raising money with which to buy Easter music.

I feel that the few sacrifices I made helped me spiritually when I think of the happy times we had at the Church. The people thanked me for coming and wanted you to be thanked for sending me. It was good to see my many friends in Ketchikan again. Thank you, Dr. King, for giving me this opportunity to make their Christmas happier.

Very sincerely,

Betty B. Christiansen

January 22, 1941

Mrs. Betty B. Christiansen
1216 South Madison
Tacoma, Washington

Dear Mrs. Christiansen:

Thank you for the interesting report of your visit to Ketchikan. I am quite sure the visit was well worth while and that the contribution you made will be a real source of strength and encouragement to the people.

I am sorry to hear the report about the Arthurs. You never know!

Cordially yours,

EBK:DH